

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 6213

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UN
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: PLENARY SESSIONS - JUNE 29, 30
AND JULY 1, WRAP-UP

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE MET IN CLOSED SESSIONS FOR INFORMAL CONSIDERATION OF ITS REPORT AFTERNOON OF JUNE 29 AND ALL DAY JUNE 30. MORNING OF JULY 1 WAS FORMAL PLENARY, CONCLUDING WITH FORMAL ADOPTION OF REPORT. DBS WORKING GROUP WAS NOT RECONVENED AFTER MEETING OF MORNING JUNE 29. OSC REPORT RECOMMENDS TASK FORCE ON SPACE CONFERENCE MEET CONTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH NEXT SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 1978, END SUMMARY.

2. THERE WAS ONLY LIMITED DEBATE ON ISSUES INVOLVED IN TOM AND ON REMOTE SENSING DURING PLEANARY CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF S&T AND LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEES. UK PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE S&T CONSIDERATION OF USE OF REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES TO STUDY POLLUTION WAS ADOPTED AND ADDED TO AGENDA OF S&T FOR NEXT SESSION WITH INTERESTED STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVITED TO SUBMIT RELEVANT INFO ON NATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR REVIEW.

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3. ON SUGGESTION OF SEVERAL DELS, COMMITTEE DECIDED TO REQUEST SECRETARIAT TO CONCLUDE STUDY OF TECHNICAL AND PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT AND REQUESTED S&T TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER AT ITS NEXT SESSION. ASSIGNMENT CONTAINS NO EXPLICIT INCLUSION OF CHARGE TO UN SECRETARIAT TO STUDY USE OF ORBIT, BUT PEREK (OUTER SPACE AFFAIRS DIVISION) APPROACHED US DELOFF TO ASK FOR

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF US GEOSTATIONARY SATELLITES FOR INCLUSION IN ORBIT STUDY. NO COMMITMENT WAS MADE. COMMITTEE ALSO REQUESTED LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE IN ITS WORK OF DEFINITION/DELIMITATION OF SPACE TO BEAR IN MIND QUESTIONS RELATING TO GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.

4. CANADA, HAVING MADE LENGTHY PLEA TO DO MORE IN S&T TO ENSURE COORDINATION AMONG REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS, AND HAVING URGED NEED FOR MORE COORDINATION TO ENSURE COMPATIBILITY AND COMPLIMENTARITY AMONG SYSTEMS, WAS SUCCESSFUL IN HAVING WORKING AGENDA OF S&T ADJUSTED TO READ QUOTE: QUESTIONS RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITE AND, IN PARTICULAR, QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE CO-ORDINATION ON A GLOBAL BASIS OF REMOTE SENSING ACTIVITIES.. END QUOTE. U.S. ENTERED CLARIFYING STATEMENT ON RECORD IN PLENARY, WHICH WAS UNCHALLENGED, NOTING THAT ANY CONSIDERATION OF INTER-SYSTEM COORDINATION IN UN WOULD BE NON-OPERATIONAL AND RECOMMENDATORY IN CHARACTER AND THAT, AS S&T SUBCOMMITTEE HAD PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED AND THIS COMMITTEE HAS AGREED, UN SHOULD NOT SEEK OR HAVE ANY OPERATIONAL ROLE IN REMOTE SENSING SYSTEMS.

5. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF SOVIET WORKING DOCUMENT ON GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, REPORTED VIENNA 4998, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE SIMPLY NOTED ITS SUBMISSION IN FINAL REPORT.

6. PRIORITIES OF WORK IN BOTH SUBCOMMITTEES REMAIN SAME FOR NEXT YEAR.

7. ON POSSIBLE UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE, COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT A TASK FORCE OF S&T SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD BE USEFUL AND AGREED THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE OPEN TO INTERESTED S&T SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER STATES. J.H. CARVER (AUSTRALIA) WAS NAMED TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN. MEMBER STATES TO BE INVITED TO SUBMIT VIEWS BY CALENDAR YEAR'S END AND TASK FORCE TO MEET DURING NEXT S&T SESSION. IF NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE, S&T SESSION COULD BE EXTENDED UP TO ONE WEEK. USSR TRIED AT FINAL PLENARY TO HAVE TASK FORCE REPORT REQUIRED TO BE REVIEWED BY LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE AS WELL AS S&T SUBCOMMITTEE. US OPPOSED AND POINTED OUT THIS CONFERENCE, IF HELD, SHOULD FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT, NOT GET INTO LEGAL/IAL ISSUES FOR WHICH AMPLE FORUMS EXIST. SOVS WERE INSISTENT, SUPPORTED BY EGYPT AND ROMANIA, BUT US REFUSED TO ACCEPT REFERENCE TO LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE, AND USSR WITHDREW PROPOSAL.

8. MEETING SCHEUDLE FOR FUTURE SESSIONS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

6-24 FEBRUARY 1978 - NEW YORK (COULD BE SHORTER)

LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

13 MARCH - 7 APRIL 1978 - GENEVA

COMMITTEE ON PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE:

12-23 JUNE 1978 - NEW YORK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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